

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015**

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**HOUSE BILL 600**

Short Title: Home Schoolers Participate in School Sports. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representative Cleveland (Primary Sponsor).

*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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April 9, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT RELATING TO PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC  
PROGRAMS BY STUDENTS ATTENDING HOME SCHOOLS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-12(23) reads as rewritten:

"(23) Power to Adopt Eligibility Rules for Interscholastic Athletic Competition. –  
The State Board of Education shall adopt rules governing interscholastic  
athletic activities conducted by local boards of education, including  
eligibility for student participation. Students attending home schools shall be  
permitted to participate in interscholastic athletic activities in accordance  
with the requirements of this subdivision. With regard to middle schools and  
high schools, the rules shall provide for the following:

a. All coaches, school nurses, athletic directors, first responders,  
volunteers, students who participate in interscholastic athletic  
activities, and the parents of those students shall receive, on an  
annual basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet. School  
employees, first responders, volunteers, and students must sign the  
sheet and return it to the coach before they can participate in  
interscholastic athletic activities, including tryouts, practices, or  
competition. Parents must sign the sheet and return it to the coach  
before their children can participate in any such interscholastic  
athletic activities. The signed sheets shall be maintained in  
accordance with sub-subdivision d. of this subdivision.

For the purpose of this subdivision, a concussion is a traumatic  
brain injury caused by a direct or indirect impact to the head that  
results in disruption of normal brain function, which may or may not  
result in loss of consciousness.

b. If a student participating in an interscholastic athletic activity  
exhibits signs or symptoms consistent with concussion, the student  
shall be removed from the activity at that time and shall not be  
allowed to return to play or practice that day. The student shall not  
return to play or practice on a subsequent day until the student is  
evaluated by and receives written clearance for such participation  
from (i) a physician licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the  
General Statutes with training in concussion management, (ii) a



1 neuropsychologist licensed under Article 18A of Chapter 90 of the  
2 General Statutes with training in concussion management and  
3 working in consultation with a physician licensed under Article 1 of  
4 Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, (iii) an athletic trainer licensed  
5 under Article 34 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, (iv) a  
6 physician assistant, consistent with the limitations of G.S. 90-18.1, or  
7 (v) a nurse practitioner, consistent with the limitations of  
8 G.S. 90-18.2.

- 9 c. Each school shall develop a venue specific emergency action plan to  
10 deal with serious injuries and acute medical conditions in which the  
11 condition of the patient may deteriorate rapidly. The plan shall  
12 include a delineation of roles, methods of communication, available  
13 emergency equipment, and access to and plan for emergency  
14 transport. This plan must be (i) in writing, (ii) reviewed by an athletic  
15 trainer licensed in North Carolina, (iii) approved by the principal of  
16 the school, (iv) distributed to all appropriate personnel, (v) posted  
17 conspicuously at all venues, and (vi) reviewed and rehearsed  
18 annually by all licensed athletic trainers, first responders, coaches,  
19 school nurses, athletic directors, and volunteers for interscholastic  
20 athletic activities.
- 21 d. Each school shall maintain complete and accurate records of its  
22 compliance with the requirements of this subdivision pertaining to  
23 head injuries.

24 The State Board of Education may authorize a designated organization to  
25 apply and enforce the Board's rules governing participation in interscholastic  
26 athletic activities at the high school level. The State Board of Education shall  
27 not designate any such organization that does not deem eligible for  
28 participation a student who (i) is attending a home school in accordance with  
29 Part 3 of Article 39 of this Chapter; (ii) has met established academic  
30 eligibility requirements for athletic participation in all subjects taken in the  
31 home schooled program by a method of evaluation agreed upon by the  
32 parent and the school principal; (iii) meets the residency criteria of  
33 G.S. 115C-366; and (iv) meets the same standards of acceptance, behavior,  
34 and performance as required of enrolled public school students participating  
35 in interscholastic athletics, except that a home schooled student shall not be  
36 required to meet school enrollment requirements. Eligibility of a student  
37 attending a home school shall be limited to participation in interscholastic  
38 programs at the school serving the attendance zone in which the student  
39 lives. Nothing in this section shall require a local school board to establish a  
40 policy permitting participation in interscholastic programs at its schools by  
41 students attending home schools.

42 Reasonable fees may be charged to students receiving home instruction  
43 to cover the costs of participation in such interscholastic programs, including  
44 the costs of additional insurance, uniforms, or equipment."

45 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with  
46 the 2015-2016 school year.